



For Immediate Release:

April 15, 2010

Contact:

Jim McGlone, FCRP Information Officer/
Virginia Department of Forestry
(703) 324-1489 or
jim.mcglone@dof.virginia.gov

**City of Falls Church Water Utility
and Fairfax County Restoration Project
To Launch Outdoor Classroom Project**

Just in time for spring plantings, an “outdoor classroom” project will be launched on April 17, 9:30 a.m., at the Chesterbrook Water Pumping Station, 1804 Kirby Road, McLean, VA. Ceremonial tree plantings will be conducted by Falls Church Mayor Robin Gardner and Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova. Tours of the Living Classroom will be provided to the public.

A joint effort between the City of Falls Church Water Utility and the Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP), The Living Classroom Project is an environmental restoration activity that increases forest cover to provide native habitat for area songbirds and butterflies. Paths, seating, and interpretive signing are designed to provide an educational environment for visitors to encounter and interact with the natural world.

The Chesterbrook Living Classroom, located in a meadow on the Falls Church Water Utility Chesterbrook water pumping station site, will be used by Falls Church City schools and Fairfax County's Chesterbrook Elementary School. The outdoor classroom will offer hands-on opportunities for students to apply environmental and natural science concepts.

This project is part of the Falls Church Water Utility's environmental stewardship efforts and community partnership activities. The project demonstrates best management practices in stormwater management and environmental restoration.

Fostered by the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships, FCRP strengthens the relationship between people and nature through community action. FCRP connects, creates, and promotes efforts to restore ecosystem functions in Fairfax County through collaboration with public, private and volunteer organizations.

For more information about the April 17 launch, contact Jim McGlone, FCRP Information Officer 703- 324-1489. For more information about volunteering to participate in work days at the Chesterbrook meadow, contact Alan Ford, Living Classroom project leader, at 703-732-5291 or amford@acm.org. For more information about the City of Falls Church Water Utility and its environmental programs call Barbara Gordon, Falls Church Communications Director, bgordon@fallschurchva.gov or 703-248-5210.

###